SIGHS for SION:

OR,

FAITH and LOVE

Constraining some grievings in her Sorrow, and groanings for her Deliverance:

By a few of her weak and unworthy Children.

Humbly, and in all faithfulness, presented to those Assemblies of hers, where Grace hath set them as Watchmen; and unto any others, that in every place call upon the Name of JESUS CHRIST our Lord, both theirs and ours.

In way of ESSAY,

To blow the Trumpet in Sion, and sound an Alarm in Gods holy Mountain, To the awakening them that are at ease, and pressing and encouraging all the upright in heart, to be in pain with her, in this day of her sore travel, and great Expectation.

PSAL.137.1. ——*we wept, when we remembred Sion.*

ISA.62.6,7. *I have set Watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

LAM.2.18,19. *Their heart cryed unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Sion: let tears run down like a river night and day, give thy self no rest, let not the apple of thine eyes cease; arise, cry out in the night, in the beginning of the watches pour out thy heart like water before the face of the Lord,* &c.

MIC.4.10. *Be in pain and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Sion, like a woman in travel.*

ISA.66.8. ——*As soon as Sion travelled, she brought forth her Children.*

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BRITISH MUSEUM

To the ſeveral Congregrations reſpectively, to which we ſtand eſpecially related; *viz.*

In { *Plymouth*, *Abingdon*, *Totneſs*, } { *Bovhey-Tracy*, and *Dartmouth*. }

Dearly Beloved,

WE *know, and acknowledge our ſelves to be debtors (yea, we owe our own ſelves) to the Lord, and you, for the exceeding grace that we (though moſt unworthy) have found in his ſight, counting us faithful, and putting us into the Miniſtry of his Goſpel; and for that our ſervice amongſt you hath been, and is in any meaſure accepted. Under the ſenſe of which engagement, it is the leaſt we can do, to be ready to render an accompt of our ſelves from time to time unto you; the which we the more chearfully now undertake, as being under the perſwaſion of a Call of the Lord, leading us forth thereunto, and having good hopes, through grace, that our labour ſhall not be vain in him; in and through whom we are,*

Yours, faithfully labouring (though in much weakneſs) for your Souls proſperity, as thoſe whoſe joy and rejoycing, both here, and in the day of Chriſt, wait to be fulfilled therein.

{ *Abraham Cheare*, *Henry Forty*, } { *John Pendarves*, *Tho: Glaſſe*, *Robert Steede*. }

Sighs for Sion, &c.

THE GREAT GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, who hath GRAVEN you, O YE PRECIOUS SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF SION, on the Palms of his Hands, hath alſo greatly endeared you to our hearts; inſomuch as we may ſay with the Apoſtle, *Ye are in our hearts* (in the Lord) *to live and dye with you*: yea, we truſt our inward affection is more abundantly toward you, then our viſible expreſſion in the enſuing lines: whereof at preſent we finde no better Teſtimony wherewith to preſent you, then that which is here tendred to your view: Your candid acceptance of ſo poor a mite, with a favourable conſtruction, and a due improvement of this Word in ſeaſon, to the Glory of God our Father, and the comfort of you his dear Children, will be that wherein our Deſires and Ends will be anſwered, and our Souls encouraged in the Work of God, and your Work; with reſolution in the power of God to hold on therein, *paſſing by evil and good report*, yea, and gladly to ſpend and be ſpent for Chriſts ſake, and for your ſakes, who are Chriſts.

But here we muſt begin with judging our ſelves, and covering our faces with deſerved ſhame, that we who have ſtood forth ſo long to miniſter the Word

Word among the Saints, and to make mention of the Work of God; and have yet had so little searchings of heart in the matter that is now before us; have known and felt so little, not onely of the power, but even of the form of this blessed Work, so as either to stir up and engage our own hearts, or to provoke the Churches of the Saints unto their concernments of this nature: But have rather eased and pleased our selves and others, in discoursing of, and prosecuting some other things, though good in themselves, and in their places, yet such as wherein our private interest of Peace and Comfort is more sensibly wrapt up; in the mean time falling short of (at least not so self-denyingly reaching after) the advancement of that Name, Interest, and Glory of God, that should be upon our hearts, to have made manifest in all the earth, *from the rising of the Sun, and from the West.* Isa.59.19.

And as we cannot but be sensible of the narrowness of our own spirits, with grief, and shame; so also, as that which is weighty on us, we do observe, That a self-seeking and self-pleasing Spirit, hath taken great hold of, and advantage on many Professors in these dayes; witness their little natutally-caring for *Sions* state, most seeking their own things, and so few seeking the things of Jesus Christ, and of their Brethren, for edification. And Oh! that there were not among you, even among you, who are the Churches of Christ, cause of complaint in this respect. These things we mention, not to cast reproach upon you, but with grieved hearts, God knoweth. And now, that we might discharge, and have the answer of a good conscience, in following the Lord fully, we have taken the opportunity of this Work, that 2 Chron.28.13

we

we truſt himſelf hath been fixing on our Spirits, after ſeeking to God, and waiting upon his Majeſty, To beſeech and provoke you, and every one of you, as you have any fellowſhip with Chriſt our Head, by faith, or in and with his body, the Church of the firſt-born, by love, you would for his, and his *Sions* ſake, hear, and receive our exhortations, conſidering with weighty Spirits what we ſay: and the Lord give you underſtanding in all things.

The Cauſe then that we deſire with trembling to
Jer. 30. 17. plead, (Brethren) is *Sions*, even hers, whom men have called an out-caſt, ſaying, This is *Sion*, whom no man ſeeketh after; and of whom that ancient Lamentation may in a great meaſure be taken up, as verified
Iſa. 51. 18. in this our day, *There is none to guide her among all the Sons whom ſhe hath brought forth, neither is there any that taketh her by the hand, of all the Sons that ſhe hath brought*
Lam. 1. 2. *up; among all her lovers ſhe hath none to comfort her*, &c. And her Profeſſed friends, (many of them) have dealt treacherouſly with her, and are become her enemies.

Dear Souls! our requeſt on her behalf is, that you
Iſa. 33. 20. Pſal. 87. 3. & 50. 2. & 48. 2. Iſa. 60. 15. would look upon *Sion*, that *City of our Solemnities*, of whom *glorious things are ſpoken*, and layed up in Promiſe for her, even to the rendring her *the Perfection of Beauty, An eternal Excellency, The joy of many generations*. And oh! that your hearts may be ſo ſutably affected with an holy ſympathy in her ſtate, through that one Spirit that is in Promiſe for all her children, that you may truly ſay, as Souls whom faith and love
Pſal. 78. 7. have tranſported into her intereſt, *All my Springs are in thee*.

But leſt we be miſtaken in your thoughts, while we

we ſpeak of her in that figurative term; and to the end our apprehenſions may be diſtinct and clear, in our wreſtlings together on her behalf, we pray you to conſider what we intend and minde in the expreſſion [*Sion.*]

First, *SION* conſidered in a more large ſenſe, takes in the whole Election of God, *whoſe names are written in Heaven*, that whole Body for which Chriſt gave himſelf, and whereof Chriſt is given to be Head; not onely thoſe who have believed, but thoſe alſo who ſhall believe, for whom, as Chriſt hath prayed, *That they all may be one*, as the Father is in him, and he in the Father, that they may be one in them, that the world may believe that the Father hath ſent him: ſo ought we to ſtrive mightily with God, and them, travelling in birth for them, till Chriſt be formed in them all; enduring alſo all things for their ſakes, *that they alſo may obtain the Salvation which is in Chriſt Jeſus with eternal glory.*

Heb.12.22,23 Joh.10.16. 2 Tim.2.19. Joh.17.20,21, Col.1.29. Gal.4.19. 2 Tim.2.10.

But ſecondly, by *Sion*, we here intend more eſpecially and particularly, Gods called and faithful people, *Jews and Gentiles*, *fellow-Citizens* in Chriſt, even *the whole Iſrael of God*, as conſidered or concerned in a controverſie with *Babylon*, ſtated in the Scriptures; taking in, as well thoſe of that bleſſed family, who are now in heaven, for the avenging of whoſe blood, we ought without fainting to cry day and night, as the peculiar people of God upon the face of the whole earth; even *all that in every place call upon the name of the Lord out of a pure heart*: in whom the glory of God is more highly concerned, then in all things elſe in the world, not onely in his pleading thorowly their cauſe in all the controverſies of *Sion* with her

Eph.2.19. & 3.15. Gal.6.16. Iſa.34.8. Luke 18.7,8. Rev.18.20,24 Pſal.73.1. Rom.10.12. Jer.50.34.

Ad-

Adverſaries, but alſo in beautifying her with his glorious Preſence, and reſtoring her to her primitive Glory, in reſpect of a pure *GOSPEL-FAITH*, *UNION*, and *ORDER*; wherein being found as a bleſſed *BRIDE*, prepared for the coming of the glorious *BRIDEGROOM*, ſhe may be counted worthy of all that glory that ſhall be brought unto her, at the ſecond *appearing of Jeſus Chriſt*, *NOW DRAWING NIGH*.

This bleſſed People, this *SION*, *Gods* glorious *Building*, and *Workmanſhip in Chriſt*, the true *ſeed of Abraham*, and *Heires of the Promiſe*, both *Jews and Gentiles*; however in the Iſſue they ſhall be a *Name, and Praiſe to him in all the Earth*: And although this great Work in and for them, be ſtill before him; yet is it the wiſdom and good pleaſure of the Father, in the depths of his Everlaſting Counſel, to let the manifeſtation of it in the world, and his diſpenſations about it, be very various, and ſeemingly to carnal eyes, unſuitable to ſuch intendments, through the many deaths, diſtreſſes, and unlikelyhoods, with which he cloatheth it in their ſight: the which he turneth nevertheleſs to the exceeding advantage of his Name all along, not onely by exerciſing thorowly the Patience, Obedience, and Faithfulneſs of his Children, in owning the truth of his Teſtimony, and bearing their Teſtimony for him unto the death; but withal, by giving full occaſion, and opportunity, for that *COUNSEL OF GOD* to be *Finiſhed*, who hath determined, and declared by the Spirit of Propheſie to the Churches, and permitteth by an hand of Providence, the riſing, and raging of *That man of Sin*, that *Bloody Myſtery of Iniquity*, until it have anſwered and

Iſa. 49. 14, 15, 16.

fulfilled

fulfilled whatsoever is held forth of it, in all the various Scripture-Prophesies, figures, and representations both of its Civil and Ecclesiastical concernment. The which, as it hath gotten to its heighth both of Renown and Cruelty, by the occasion of that exceeding great offence, wherewith the cause of Christ hath been presented in its appearance to the World, being a *Stumbling-Stone* to the Children of this worlds Wisdom and Glory: So shall its ruine arise from that Jealousie of the Lord wherein he hath promised to plead the cause of his own, and his peoples glory; finding in, and recompensing on that generation, on whom the houre of his wrath shall fall, *all that righteous blood that hath been shed*, and all that unworthy and treacherous usage that *SION* hath met withall in the days of her poverty and distress.

The day of *SIONS FULL DELIVERANCE*, the destruction of her enemies, & the setting up of *CHRISTS GLORIOUS KINGDOM*, is very much upon his heart, *Isa.* 63. 4. as a fruit of the sore *Travel of his Soul*, Isa. 53. 11, 12. and recompence of that unworthy usage that himself, his cause and people have had upon the earth; and for which, sitting at the right-hand of God, he is in continual expectation, *Heb.* 10. 13. as that which must be given him as a fruit of his intercession, *Psal.* 2. 8, 9. and to which he is preparing his ways *by terrible things in Righteousness*, Psal. 65. 5, 8. *Shaking both Heaven and Earth*, and making a Quick dispatch, *Luk.* 18. 7, 8. ordering, and ruling all things therein, and making them subject to this his great and glorious work. And indeed, so much the more is this Design and Work declared to be upon his heart, as the whole

Isa. 49. 7. & 61. 3, 7.

Isa.9.7. Psal.132.17. management of it will lie upon his own shoulders; they being very few among men, that will be found to have regard to it, in the budding of it; not onely through the blindness and enmity of those that are aliens from him, but the very great sleep and slumber that will be found among them that pretend to him, either through their want of faith, Luk. 18. 8. or their sensual engagements in this present evil world, Chap. 17. 26, &c. So that notwithstanding that Salvation he works for them, and his pleading their cause, lays them under no small engagement to him; when his cause comes to be pleaded, the complaint is made by the Prophet, *Isa.*59.16. *And he saw that there was no man, and wondred that there was no intercessor. Therefore his arm brought Salvation unto him.* The which great defection even of Saints themselves, from *FOLLOWING THE LAMB*, in this special service, together with the fixation of the work upon the heart of Christ notwithstanding this, serveth highly now more then ever, the day drawing neerer, to commend, and greatly to encourage and excite the faithfulness of any, though the weakest and most despised of the Lords holy ones, who are in a right spirit engag'd for, and together with Christ, in their constant waitings, and fervent expectations of this manifestation of his Glory: they hereby witnessing that they have the mind of Christ; and having one mind, give their power and strength to the Lamb, as *CALLED*, and *CHOSEN*, and *FAITHFUL*, (when others have one minde to give theirs to the Beast) making prayers also *for him continually*, and preferring him and his interest before their chief joy, through the spirit of faith and love,

1 Cor. 2. 16. Rev. 17. 13, 14. Psa. 72. 15. & 137. 6. Heb. 13. 3. 2 Cor. 12. 27

love; always reckoning themselves as being in the body, and members in particular.

A taste of this worthy Spirit (Brethren, beloved in the Lord) we humbly trust our God is giving us, who address our selves to you, with some fervent desires that we may be made more to partake of it. And indeed, such is our love to your Souls, and delight (through grace) in this work before us, that we cannot but commend it to you, with more then an ordinary importunity; beseeching you, and every one of you, from the greatest to the least, notwithstanding divers differences amongst you, touching the time, way and manner of Gods effecting those great things, that by the will, and in the way of the Lord, you be found reaching after the same Spirit, and wrestling much together and apart for it. And Oh! that it may be the pleasure of the Lord herein, that your zeal may provoke many, and you may be found to have stood in this *hour of Temptation*, and this *BACK-SLIDING TIME*, *faithful with the Lamb on the Mount Sion*, having not onely *His Fathers Name written on your Foreheads*, but his work graven upon your hearts, and all those blessed Characters disposing you thereunto, shining in all your conversations; which will make you covet, that the Lord make his Work appear to you as his servants, though he reserve the revelation of his glory unto your Children. For what greater joy, or Crown of rejoycing, can we have at the appearing of our Lord, then that we with you, and yee with us, be presented *faultless before his Throne? wherevnto we also labour, and desire to strive mightily, according to his working.* In which work, and to which end, we pray you bear with us, while we

2 Cor. 9. 2.
Rev. 14. 1.
Psa. 84. 5, 6, 7.
Psa. 90. 16.
Jud. 24.
Col. 1. 28.

follow this Exhortation a little further in a few words.

Is not the exercise of such a *PUBLIKE SPIRIT* for the *whole Work* of the Lord most desirable? if we consider farther, not onely its sweet likeness unto, and fellowship with the heart of Christ; but withall, that very great Blessing that hath been promised, and all ages they have found to their particular souls, who have been given up to mind most naturally, and follow most fully, that designe of God, that had its present tendency in that very age to promote *Sion*: the Lord is not unrighteous to forget such work, and labour of love, that is shewed towards his name. How hath that word been made good to them that pray for her Peace, *They shall PROSPER that love thee?* And see, we pray you (dear Brethren) how God hath bid his choice remnant to consider, and reckon from that very day, wherein they set their hearts and hands about the Work of *Sion*, *from this day will I bless you*, Hag. 2. 18, 19. what choice Testimonies of the great love of God to himself, did *Daniel* finde at several times! (He is said to be *a man greatly beloved*, or a man of desires, *Dan.* 9. 23. & 10. 11, 19.) when he was wrestling for the *NAME* and Work of God singly, not minding a word of his own interest (that we reade of) farther then it was wrapt up in the Lords? besides the great secrets that were opened to him, of the deep designes of God for a great while to come. What a desirable foresight had *David* given him by the Spirit, in all the patern of the house of the Lord, and large furnishments thereunto? yea, what provision, to his astonishment, did God make for building him an house, and establishing his Kingdom, when

Isa. 66. 10.
Zeph. 3. 18.
Heb. 6. 10.
Psa. 122. 6.
1 Chro. 28. 12 &c.
2 Sam. 7. beg.

in

in the time of his rest he was taking care of that house of Gods glory, because of which all the people of the earth might know his name? 1 Chro. 6. 33.

What a constant observation was *Nehemiah* enabled to take of the hand of God for good upon him, *Neh.* 2. 8, 18. and what boldness, and clearness of access, and appeal to the Lord, was he still furnished withall, whiles he was in the fear of God, (Chap. 5. 9, 15.) about the work of *Sion*? Neh. 5. 19. & 6. 9. & 13. 14, & 22, 31.

Was not *Ezra's* experience much of the eye and hand of the Lord accompanying him, in all that great work he did for the Lord his God? Ezra 5. 5. & 7. 6. & 9. 8. & 8. 18, & 22, 31.

Moreover, it deserves our serious observation, being *written for generations to come*, how much the Lord is delighted in the faithful fervent prayers of those who have sought him, in behalf of *the People called by his name*; in that he hath carefully preserved the memorial of them, causing them to be expresly recorded in his book; as appears in the first of *Nehemiah*, and the ninth of *Daniel*: all which, with many others that might be named, are ensamples unto us, that we by their patern might be stirred up to *serve our generation*, with faithful spirits, *by the will of God*. Psa. 102. 17, 18. Act. 13. 36.

To which also we might adde, the remembrance of the Curse on them that hate *Sion*; yea, the apparent withering and blasting that hath been, and is on them, that in following their private interests, neglect her, and defer her work, under this pretence, *The time is not yet come, the time that the Lords house should be built*; whilest in the mean time they prefer their relations, possessions, and other worldly accommodations, before this dear interest of Jesus Christ: for which, that Judgement in a spiritual sense is come Psa. 129. 5. Hag. 1. 2, 10, 11.

upon

upon ſome, and may juſtly be feared as coming on others, *Hag.* 1.10, 11. The heavens over them are ſtayed from dew, *&c.* Yea, and hath not God puniſhed this neglect in many, with ſuch a decreaſe of their ſpiritual moiſture, as that word is made good in them, *Pſal.*137.6. Their tongues even cleave to the roofs of their mouthes; whileſt others, faithful in improving their received meaſure of a Spirit of Faith and Prayer, are abundantly encreaſed therein. Oh! what dreadful Woes are pronounced to them that finde their pleaſures in ſuch a ſeaſon, *but regard not the work of the Lord, nor conſider the operation of his hands; that are at eaſe in Sion, but are not grieved for the afflictions of Joſeph; Careleſs daughters*, that lay not to heart the periſhing of the righteous, and conſider not the taking away of the merciful men; with whom the Lord will plead, as with them that ſport themſelves againſt him: the deſire of ſuch ſlothful ones will kill them, *Prov.*21.25. and their proſperity deſtroy them, *Prov.*1.32.

Iſa.5.11,12; & 28.12,13, 14.

Amos 6.1. to 6.

Iſa.32.9,11. & 57.1,2.

And now, Brethren, is it not high time, that we cry aloud, and ſpare not; lift up our voice like a Trumpet, when it is too too evident, that in the day of a little eaſe wherein for a little ſpace grace hath been given us from the Lord our God, even a little reviving in our bondage, to ſet up the houſe of our God, and to repair the deſolations thereof, men are ſleeping, lying down, loving to ſlumber in every corner, ſaying, It is not nigh; let us build houſes? *&c.* And is not Pride, and fulneſs of bread companions to this abundant *idleneſs*, through which *the building decayeth*? Oh that at length, for the Lords ſake, we might be provoked to *be fervent in ſpirit, ſerving the Lord*,

Iſa.58.1.

Joel 2.1,15.

Ezra 9.8,9.

Ezek.16.49.

Prov.18.9.

Lord, and that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of ſleep: for now ours, and Sions *Salvation, is nearer then when we believed.* Rom. 12. 11; & 13. 11.

For the Quickning of our hearts to this work, and the heighthning of our expectations therein, hath not the Lord given us, among many other, this remarkable ſigne of the times, even a mighty ſpirit of faith and prayer, through ſome choice diſcoveries of grace raiſed up in his people? by the exerciſe of which, in the management of *SIONS CONTROVERSIE*, great and glorious *WONDERS* have been wrought in theſe Nations, by unlikely meanes, in anſwer to the prayers of the Saints; as hath been openly confeſt by the inſtruments imployed, which have cauſed themſelves, and others, beholders, to ſtand amazed thereat: and although many *who* once *ſeemed to be pillars* in this Cauſe, have ſoon forgat theſe great works, and have turned back from *following fully* after God in this way; yet there is a *REMNANT*, a generation that remain upon their *WATCH-TOWER*, with whom the hand of the Lord reſts wonderfully, upholding their faith and hope for *Sion*, notwithſtanding all diſcouragements, in their unceſſant prayers for her. Hath God ſaid to his at any time, *Seek ye me in vain?* Iſa. 45. 19. hath not God by evident anſwers of prayers in theſe dayes, ſealed it in a good meaſure to his people, *that the time to favour her, yea the ſet-time* is come? for he hath regarded the prayer of the poor deſtitute, and hath not deſpiſed their prayer: and is not this written for our ſakes? ſee *Pſa.* 102. 17, 18. God who beautifieth his mercies to his people, by giving them in their due ſeaſon, having in theſe latter dayes given forth this glorious bleſſing of

a Spirit of grace and ſupplication ſo abundantly, and continuing the ſame, hath he not ſome great work to be further carried on thereby?

On! that we could preſent unto you, in a lively way, what our ſouls have begun to taſte of thoſe firſt ripe fruits, of that ariſing and growing Spirit, that grace hath in a meaſure viſited ſome Saints withall, that have joyntly and ſeverally deſired to be found faithful for the Lord: they have to our abundant refreſhing witneſſed that their *labour is not in vain in the Lord; nay, in keeping ſuch Commandments there is great reward:* whilſt they have felt (though as yet it be but a little of) *Sions* pangs upon their hearts, they have been ſtrongly carried up into the Spirit of that day, and their ſouls were made as the *Chariots of Aminadab:* which declareth clearly to us, that were we but put into perfect travel in our Spirits, did we take *Pleaſure* indeed *in her ſtones*, and *favour the duſt thereof*, it would turn to us for a further Teſtimony, that the time of God's ariſing to ſhew mercy to *Sion*, the time to favour her, yea the ſet time were come.

Cant.6.12.

Iſa.66.8.

Pſa.102.13, 14.

But alas for us! we have not onely ſought our eaſe when pain ſhould have been upon us, but as fooliſh Children, have *ſtayed long in the place of the breaking forth of Children*; and by the iniquities that we have contracted ſince we were named *Sions* Children, we have kept back good things from her: what remaineth now, but that we lay her ſtate ſo much the more deeply to heart, as we have drawn grief upon her, and added to her deformity? being earneſt in a *SPIRIT* of faith and prayer *NIGHT AND DAY* in her behalf, as becometh Children nurſed at her ſide, ſutably affected, and acted with and for her:

Hoſ.13.13.

Jer.5.25.

not expecting our own deliverance, any other way then in hers, knowing that we without her cannot be made perfect. Esth.4.13,14. Heb.11.40.

And that we may hold on our way without fainting, & not be in our mournings as men without hope; would it not prove of great advantage, to the raising and keeping up our Faith, to be much exercised and delighted in the prospect that is to be had, through the promises, into her (ready to be revealed) glory? However, *her visage is now blacker then a cole*; *she is not known in the streets: treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously* with her; a disappointment hath befaln many of her hopeful expectations, because her transgressions are many: reproach hath befallen her at the hands of Professors; and the enemies that know not the Lord, Blaspheme. The light and Spirit of the Lord is belyed and abused by vain men, unsound in the faith, *disobedient* to, and *despisers* of *the Precious Ordinances* of *Jesus Christ*; through which also, *loss of Children* hath here and there betided her *Assemblies*. Yet hath *JEHOVAH* spoken it, and his faithfulness is engaged in an *Everlasting Covenant*, that though she hath *Been forsaken and hated, that no man went through her*, yet he will make her *an eternal Excellency, a Joy of many generations, the City of the Lord*; *the Sion of the Holy one of Israel shall She be called*; in nothing more glorious, then in the perpetual presence of her *KING*, and *GOD* with her, *who shall Tabernacle with men*, and *dwell with them*, they being *his people*, and he *himself shall be with them, and be their God*, being in stead of a *Temple, Sun*, and *Moon*; *the glory of God and the Lamb* alwayes lightning her, the Lord being her *everlasting light*, and her Luke 18.1. Lam.4.8. Isa.24.16.& 59.9,11,&c. Isa.60.14,15. Zech.2.10. Ezek.37.27, 28,29. Rev.21.3,21, 22,23. Isa.60.19.20.

her *God* her *glory.* ——How amiable in the day of her deliverance, ſhall *Sion* be, through the bringing to her glory that ancient People, the Family of *Abra-*
Zech.12.10. *ham*, Gods *friend*, *when they ſhall ſee him whom they have pierced, and mourn for him*, and be ſaved by him
Hoſ.1.11. in that *great day of Jezreel*, the Lord uniting *Ephraim*
Iſa.11.13. and *Judah*, making them very great, holy, and *a bleſ-*
Jer.3.18. *ſing round about?* Eze.34.26. *And what ſhall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?* Rom.11.15. and when the glory of the Lord ſhall be riſen upon her, then ſhall the Gentiles come unto her light, and Kings to
Mal.1.11. the brightneſs of her riſing, *Iſa.60.1.3. Yea, from the riſing of the Sun, unto the going down of the ſame, ſhall the Name of the Lord be great among the Gentiles; all Nations* flowing unto the *Mountain of the Lord*, when it ſhall be
Iſa.2.2. advanced to the tops of the Mountains, and exalted above the hills: yea, what glorious things are ſaid of this City of God? There ſhall be births in *Rahab, and Babylon, Philiſtia, Ethiopia, and Tyre*; and yet when God ſhall count up the people, he ſhall ſay of *Sion*, *This and that man was born in her, and the higheſt himſelf ſhall eſtabliſh her*, Pſ.87.3,4,5. *the zeal of the Lord of hoſts ſhall do this.* And Oh! that all the Lords people were ſo fully *prepared*, as a *Bride*, to meet their bleſſed *Bridegroom*; that we might all unfeignedly ſay with one accord,
Rev.22.20. *Even ſo, come Lord Jeſus, come quickly.*

Had we but truly-Noble Spirits, how would theſe diſcoveries of glory raviſh us, and our eye affect our heart? ſetting us with reſtleſs ſpirits, to be *looking for,*
2 Pet.3.12. *and haſtning unto*, that *day* of the Lord; this day of the manifeſt exalting JESUS, as KING OF
Iſa.33.18. SAINTS, and KING OF NATIONS? Nay, would it not fill our hearts with jealouſie for his Name

Name, againſt all that ſtandeth up in the earth, to oppoſe his *Kingdom* and glory, beginning at home in our own ſpirits? the zeal of the Lords houſe would eat us up, and the love of it would crucifie us more unto, and wean us from thoſe intereſts of earth, and men, whereupon we have been apt to lean, and whereunto we have been deeply and dangerouſly engaged: cauſing us alſo to wait to be with Jeſus, which is beſt of all; and in the mean time to pant, and thirſt unceſſantly, for that *holy Spirit of Promiſe*, that alone can preſent us with the raviſhing glory of that expected day, and raiſe up our ſpirits to a ſweet and ſutable diſpoſition, according to the will of God, to wait and act aright toward it. Rev.15.3,4. Pſal.69.9.

Dear hearts, let your faith be high, and your wreſtlings without wearineſs; neither be ye in any meaſure diſcouraged, nor diſcouraging one another: in this matter the ſtrong cannot ſay to the weak, *I have no need of thee*; ſhould not all our intereſt in heaven be improved to the uttermoſt, in this day of *Jacobs trouble? Oh ſtrengthen the weak hands, and confirme the feeble knees*, Iſa.35.3. *Provoke one another to* this *love, and* theſe *good works*; ſay to one another, *Let us goe ſpeedily to pray before the Lord, and to ſeek the Lord of hoſts*; *I will go alſo*. And ye, *O poor of the flock*, that wait upon the Lord, and know that this is *the word of the Lord, be ſtrong*, yea, *be ſtrong and of good courage*; knowing, that in this Work of Gods Tabernacle, he receiveth in good part your ſincere, though weak, breathings; your *Badgers-ſkins*, and *Goats-hair, is in no wiſe caſt out*. *Ye that are of a fearful heart, be ſtrong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and ſave you*, Iſa.35.4. Numb.6.32,7. 1 Cor.12.21. Heb.10.24. Zech.8.21. Zech.11.11. Exod.35.21, 23.

what ſhall one then anſwer the Meſſengers of the Nations? That the Lord hath founded Sion, and the poor of his people ſhall betake themſelves to it, Iſa. 14.32.

And ye alſo, beloved and honoured Brethren, who miniſter the Word of Grace among the Saints, How comely will your goings be, as he-goats before the flocks, in this Work? Have you not the Prophets of old, who have ſpoken in the Name of the Lord, for an example; whoſe words accompanied with the ſame Spirit of Faith, will they not furniſh to this Work? In reading their writings, conſider their work in ſuch a time as this, (Profeſſors then being in ſuch a poſture of ſecurity as now) was it not to warn them (with a Woe unto them) who were at eaſe in *Sion*, Amos 6.1,3,4, *&c.* and ſuch as regarded not the work of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands? *Iſa.* 5.12.. Which duty had they neglected, would not God have required it at their hands? Did they not call upon *the people* to *aſſemble* together, to *faſt* and *pray*, to *mourn* and *weep* before the Lord, to plead the cauſe of his *people*, his *heritage*? Joel 2.15, 16,17. Thus did they, whoſe example is laid before you, as *wiſe Stewards*, giving to thoſe of *the houſhold a portion*, ſutable to the preſent *ſeaſon*. Should we not reſemble them in this, crying out with *the Watchmen upon Mount Ephraim*, Jer. 31.6. *Ariſe ye, and let us go up to Sion, unto the Lord our God*; withall, waiting daily on God for ſuch a diſcerning of the *Times*, as might render us like the *Children of Iſſachar*, who knew *what Iſrael ought to do*? 1 Chron. 12. 32. If this rude Eſſay, or ſmall tinkling (as it may be judged) may provoke you, who are more skilful, to *blow the Trumpet*, and the Lord ſpirit you thereunto,

do

do it, we pray you, as for his, and his peoples ſake, with all your might; not ſparing to lay out your more worthy Labours, for the carrying on of this Work. Bear with us, yet a little, in our humble importunity: Is not the *glorious Name* of God, *the peace of Jeruſalem*, and its proſperity, the proſperity of your own Souls alſo, and the people to whom you relate, who may be diſcouraged by your remiſsneſs, eminently concerned in this matter? Yet once more, we beſeech you therefore, *in the bowels of Chriſt*, let not any worldly intereſt, prejudice, jealouſie, fear of ill events, or any carnal reaſoning whatſoever, withhold your hearts or hands, from helping in ſo good and glorious a Work.

What ſhall we ſay more, dearly beloved? *if there be any conſolation in Chriſt, if any comfort of love, if any fellowſhip of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye our joy, in being of one accord, and one minde*, in this weighty Work commended unto you; wherein the *NAME AND GLORY OF GOD* (which ought to be dearer to us then our lives) is ſo eminently concerned. And withall, adde to your diligence, in looking into the concernments of *Chriſt*, and his *Saints*, that having *arrived unto a diſtinct* knowledge of them, your hearts being duly affected with them, you may go on proſperouſly, not onely to ſpread before the Lord, both his, and his peoples *Cauſe*, as the matter ſhall require; but alſo *wait for the return of prayer*; diſcerning this in your ſelves, That they beſt know how good God is to them that ſeek him, that after ſeeking, *wait for him*, Lam. 3. 25, 26. Having been thus bold with you for *Sion*, we humbly crave for our ſelves, That we may be had in eſpecial remembrance

1 King. 8. 59.

brance on your hearts before the Lord, that we may be fitted for, and faithful in the work of our Dear *REDEEMER*: Into whose embraces we give you up, and remain,

Your poor unworthy Brethren, through rich Grace firmly knit unto you, in the bonds of Gospel-Love; and one with you in your Spiritual warfare, and waiting for the exaltation of Jesus Christ,

Abraham Cheare, *John Pendarves*,
Henry Forty, *Tho: Glasse*,
Robert Steede.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

FINIS.